

Kokolopori Bulletin

October 2007

The Newsletter of the Kokolopori-Falls Church Sister City Partnership

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The Kokolopori – Falls Church Sister City Partnership promotes understanding, friendship and cooperation between citizens in two communities with a common interest in rainforest and wildlife conservation and sustainable community development. As a program of the Bonobo Conservation Initiative, the Kokolopori Partnership focuses on supporting an indigenous Congolese community which manages a 1,200 square mile forest reserve in the heart of the Central African rainforest.

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Djolu Technical College is currently the only institute of higher learning in an area half the size of New England. Established in 2003, the college is located about 40 miles from Kokolopori in Djolu, in the Maringa-Lopori-Wamba region of the Congo Basin rainforest. The closest university is 300 miles away in Kisangani and is virtually inaccessible to Kokolopori/Djolu area students due to endemic poverty and lack of transportation infrastructure. The College, also known by its French acronym ISDR (Institut Supérieur de Développement Rural), has asked for help in finding a partner school here in the United States.

As Sir David King, Science Advisor to the British government, said in July at the World Bank, anyone who cares about the future of Africa must recognize the central importance of building the capacity of African science and technology. *“Science and technology is vital for good governance, stability and human capital. A technically skilled population is a prerequisite for economic and wealth sustainability and well being.”*

Djolu Technical College was founded by Vie Sauvage, a local grassroots conservation and community development organization based in Kokolopori, in partnership with the Bonobo Conservation Initiative (BCI), the KFCSCP’s parent organization. The college was established at the recommendation of local Congolese community leaders and regional authorities as part of the agreement negotiating the creation of the Kokolopori Bonobo Reserve. This community-managed rainforest reserve is one of the richest known habitats for the most endangered great ape species, the bonobo.

The goal of Djolu Technical College is to become a regional hub of education and training in conservation management, sustainable agriculture and micro-enterprise development, and to build the capacity of local communities to establish sustainable livelihoods and reduce pressure on land and wildlife resources. Initial funding support for the ISDR was received from BCI, and last year, the college also received a grant from the Great Ape Conservation Fund of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. There has also been significant investment of time and resources by the local community.

Djolu Technical College has been approved by the DRC Ministry of Education, and the curriculum includes the following courses: General Agriculture, Harnessing Technology, Forestry, Agricultural Techniques, Animal Husbandry, Hygiene and Public Health, Agricultural Economics, Accounting, English, Mathematics, Marketing, Environmental Management, Psychology, Community Development, Rural Administration, Civil and Land Law, and more.

The college is now in its fourth academic year with 11 students in the first undergraduate class, 25 students in the second class, and 14 students in the third. Tuition starts at \$60 for the first year, \$80 for

the second and \$100 for the third year. For many in this impoverished rural province of the DRC, these tuition fees represent an insurmountable impediment to pursuing an undergraduate degree.

At this point, the ISDR utilizes rented classrooms in a local school, and has computers and intermittent electricity. However it lacks a computer room, internet connection, library, many textbooks and often even school supplies. There are eight permanent positions on the teaching staff, as well as a number of visiting professors from the University of Kisangani, who travel several hundred miles by motorcycle and dugout canoe for rotations of one or more months at a time.

The importance of establishing mechanisms and infrastructure to sustain Djolu Technical College into the future cannot be overstated. The college is already functioning successfully despite what many Americans would consider impossible adversity. If it flourishes, the ISDR can serve as a model for one of the DRC’s poorest and least developed regions.

African colleges and universities are essential to the development of their countries, enhancing opportunities for women, and preparing the continent’s next generation of scientists, technologists and leaders. American university faculty, students and alumni have the ability to help African institutions realize this vision. Faculty exchanges, funding for faculty salaries, student scholarships or an internet connection, cultural exchanges, and sending books and equipment are among the opportunities that make such alliances particularly rewarding.

Anyone with connections to an institution of higher education or student group that might be interested in establishing a sister university relationship with Djolu Technical College is urgently requested to pass along the information in this article. Volunteers to help contact American colleges, to proactively seek a sister university, are welcome. More information about Djolu Technical College is available by contacting info@kokolopori-partnership.org.

For Sir David King’s views on the importance of home-grown science and technology to Africa’s future, see <http://tinyurl.com/2htd6e> and <http://tinyurl.com/2ydvzg>.

What's New!

Supporter Runs Marathon to Benefit Kokolopori



A resident of the City of Falls Church has embarked on a grueling training regime this fall in preparation for the Marine Corps Marathon on October 28th. Maura Constance, a nurse practitioner and chair of the Health Clinic

Committee of the Kokolopori-Falls Church Sister City Partnership, is running the 26.2 mile course to raise enough money to hire Kokolopori's first doctor.

The 30,000 participants in the marathon must keep up a 14 minute-per-mile pace in order to stay in the race, which wends its way around the National Mall, Hain's Point, Georgetown and Rosslyn. Begun in 1976, the Marine Corps Marathon enables participants to raise money for a variety of charitable causes.

Because doctors in remote areas of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) earn about \$200 a month, Ms. Constance has set herself a \$5,000 fundraising goal. This will ensure a new doctor two year's worth of salary. Currently the only health care providers in Kokolopori are six to eight auxiliary (A3) nurses, who have had four years of secondary school, and two A1 nurses who have completed three years of college or university. It takes six years of study to complete secondary school, and five years at a university plus a residency to become a doctor in the DRC.

Bienvenu Mupenda, from the Bonobo Conservation Initiative's Kinshasa office, who is a highly qualified nurse-practitioner, visits Kokolopori several times a year and offers one-day health clinics. Having a resident doctor on site would save many lives and alleviate suffering due to malaria, complications of childbirth, a wide range of

infectious diseases, as well as trauma associated with manual labor, which are among the most common health problems encountered in the community.

"As a nurse practitioner, I am amazed that such a modest sum could have such an incalculable impact on the lives of people in Kokolopori," explains Ms. Constance. With one week to go before race day, she has raised \$3,900. Donations (payable to KFCSCP) can be sent to Maura Constance at 203 S. Lee Street, Falls Church, VA 22046.

Give the Gift of Opportunity

This December, what better way to share the holiday spirit with your friends and family than by making a gift that will help entrepreneurs in Kokolopori work their way out of poverty? If you're looking for the perfect gift for your sister who has everything, why not make a gift in her name for our sister city where people have next to nothing?

During November and December, we will be offering a gift card to donors to the Microcredit Program for Falls Church's sister city, Kokolopori. Donors will receive a colorful notecard to give to their gift recipient, which pictures one of the women in Kokolopori applying for loans to start small businesses. On one half of the notecard, we will print some details about the woman's family circumstances and her vision for her business. On the other, a message will announce that a gift has been made in the recipient's honor to help a woman in Kokolopori obtain working capital for her small business, provide for her children, and help build the local economy.

We will print 500 notecards by October 31 and invite people in Falls Church and surrounding communities to make our year-end appeal part of their holiday giving. Watch for the appeal in your email in November, or buy your notecards at the Holiday Craft Fair on December 1. Donors will be invited to add their photo to a poster that will be displayed in the Community Center until it is filled, and then sent to Kokolopori along with our donations and greetings. The donations will be used to support the administration of the \$13,000 loan fund that was raised for this program at our April benefit reception at the International Monetary Fund.

Microcredit, sometimes called village banking, involves dispensing small loans, sometimes as small as \$50 to \$100, to the poor, most often to women, who wish to start small businesses (“micro-enterprises”). Experience has shown that women are a good credit risk and they invest their income toward the welfare of their families. Loans are generally made to women’s cooperatives that serve as support networks and a type of “guarantee” of repayment for borrowers with no collateral or credit history.

In Kokolopori, loans will support the development of micro-enterprises such as sewing, soap-making, salting fish, and marketing community products. Micro-loans will be administered by BCI and its Congolese partner organization, Vie Sauvage, which have previously undertaken a pilot micro-enterprise project in Kokolopori. The funds raised through this appeal will provide support for staffing and infrastructure necessary to start the loan funds flowing. Things like trucks to move products to regional markets, HF radios to facilitate communication, and salaries of administrative staff are essential to getting the micro-loan program off the ground.

At present, there is virtually no cash economy in Falls Church’s sister community, due partly to its geographic isolation and in part to the widespread infrastructure destruction during the Congo War. The DRC only emerged from eight years of war in 2003, and in 2006 the country held its first democratic elections in 45 years.

Families in Kokolopori live mainly by farming, hunting and gathering, fishing, trading, and occupations such as masonry, carpentry, blacksmithing, and traditional healing. Whenever a villager earns a bit of cash, they must walk 40 miles to the nearest town, Djolu, in order to buy manufactured goods.

Jean-Marie Benishay, from BCI’s DRC office, who helped lay the groundwork for the microcredit program in Kokolopori, visited Falls Church last summer. He explained that one of the goals of the micro-credit project is to encourage the creation of local and regional markets for products from Kokolopori, and help bring much-needed cash into the local economy. Microcredit loans will be made

for a different type of business in each cluster of villages, to encourage the creation of local markets for products.

With a small infusion of capital, we hope to generate a sustained increase in income for these families which will begin turning this stricken economy into a vibrant community, where children go to school, health and nutrition improve, and people gain hope for the future.

Folk Singer Benefits Kokolopori



Every seat was taken at Stacy’s Coffee Parlor on a recent Friday night when folk singer Doris Justis and bass player Mark Ashby performed to benefit our sister city. A basket near the door filled rapidly with donations to be used to conduct a door-to-door health survey in Kokolopori this winter.

If you missed the first performance, you will get a second chance on Friday night, November 30th. The duo has graciously agreed to a return engagement from 7:30 to 9:30 that evening. Stacy’s is located at 709 W. Broad Street in Falls Church.

Bonobo Photographer to Visit Falls Church Schools

On December 18-20, animal photographer Marian Brickner will speak to students in the Falls Church City Public Schools and share photographs from her upcoming children's book, *Lucy's Day*. Because Falls Church’s sister community manages one of the richest habitat sites in the world for this most endangered of the four great ape species, Ms. Brickner is eager to share her passion for bonobos with our children.

Although she will spend the majority of her visit interacting with students at Thomas Jefferson

Elementary School, she will also visit two photography classes at George Mason High School and talk to TAAP students at Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School. On the last afternoon of her stay, she is scheduled to give a presentation to members of the International Club and Environmental Club at the high school. She also hopes to photograph dogs while in town, for her next children's book project.

Ms. Brickner has never been to Kokolopori, nor even seen a bonobo in the wild. A resident of St. Louis, all her bonobo photographs have been taken in American zoos, especially in Jacksonville, Florida. Lucy, the subject of Ms. Brickner's book, is one of the bonobo youngsters in that zoo.

Her goal, explains Ms. Brickner, is to get the word out to children that bonobos exist. Although they are as closely related to humans as chimpanzees are, bonobos are much rarer and the least studied of the great apes. Some of her photos can be seen at <http://dlynnwaldron.com/marianbonobos/>.

Recent Accomplishments

Local Rock Concert Benefits Health Clinic



Ben Tourkin, an eighth grader at George Mason High School, chose Kokolopori's health clinic as the beneficiary of the community service project he performed for his Bar Mitzvah. A guitarist in a four-person band called Anyway, Ben planned a rock concert benefit for the evening of October 5th in the gym at the Falls Church Community Center. The four talented young musicians in Anyway write most of their own music and lyrics.

Ben learned about Falls Church's sister city through his experience last year as president of the Student Council at Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School. "I really like that I can benefit a village in such a big way, doing something I love," he explains.

Ben also recruited two other bands to play: a ninth grade band called The Suppliers, and a band comprised of eleventh graders called Basmati. The goal was to make the concert both a fundraising and an awareness-raising opportunity for Kokolopori. Several in-kind donations were secured to keep costs down, like the lighting equipment from George Mason High School, and the sound equipment from Lederer's Sound.

The event was a rip-roaring success! Ben raised \$1,400 by collecting \$5.00 at the door from more than 150 patrons, as well as donations from well-wishers. Ads were also sold in the event program. The funds will be used to purchase urgently-needed medicines and medical supplies which will be taken to Kokolopori next month.

KFCSCP Website Updated

Check out our website (www.kokolopori-partnership.org) for new information about the history of the Democratic Republic of Congo, our IMF benefit reception last spring, our student art contest, and more. Just make sure you view it with Internet Explorer, rather than Mozilla or Netscape. Our web host, Homestead.com, tells us that their service is not compatible with older browsers and visitors will only see our original site content unless they connect through Explorer.

Donations Procure School Supplies

In December 2006, residents of Falls Church and other generous individuals responded to a fundraising appeal to support basic educational needs in Kokolopori, including textbooks, notebooks, pens and roofing for school buildings. \$10,250 was raised including a \$5,000 challenge grant from the Global Giving Foundation and \$483 from a Thomas Jefferson Elementary School student fundraiser.

In the 35 villages that comprise Kokolopori, 12 schools have struggled to educate 2,500 students, without textbooks and often even without paper, pens, or a structurally sound classroom. The

thatched roofs on the mud brick buildings sometimes cave in during heavy rains.

Village chiefs met during the spring of 2007 to decide how to divide the donations among the eight primary and two secondary schools. Each school is receiving a world map, loose-leaf paper, chalk, notebooks, and pens. Colored pencils, contributed by Falls Church students cleaning out their lockers last June, will also be distributed. In addition, nearly all of the primary schools will obtain a set of textbooks, and two of the schools are receiving metal roofing sheets to build durable new roofs.

The supplies have been purchased and loaded on the Ketsy, a river barge that plies the Congo River and its tributaries, connecting remote villages like Kokolopori with the urban markets in Kinshasa. Once a regular presence on the river before the war when area coffee, cocoa and palm oil plantations were operational, the Ketsy was rehabilitated and re-launched in 2006 with the support of the Bonobo Conservation Initiative, the South-East Consortium for International Development (SECID), Conservation International, and SOCOLO Plantations which was once the leading employer in the region.

There are a few cabins on the Ketsy for first-class passengers, but most travelers settle in for the journey wherever they can, even on top of the mountains of cargo. Propelled slowly by a tugboat, the barge takes a month to get to Befori, the closest port to Kokolopori, and it stops at many ports along the way. The docking of the Ketsy, as you can imagine, is a cause for great celebration as villagers stream down to the river to greet travelers, look over merchandise, or load their own goods.



Although it is miles by shallow tributary to the port nearest to Kokolopori, villagers will be very happy to greet the arrival of the Ketsy, and unload their new metal roofing and school supplies. They will carry our gifts in dugout canoes to the village schools of Kokolopori, marveling that they have friends in distant Falls Church, Virginia.

Lions Club and Victorian Society Team Up for Vision Care

The Lions Club International has donated 400 pairs of used prescription eyeglasses for Kokolopori. The glasses came in a wide variety of prescription strengths, sizes and styles. According to the Lions Club's website, "*The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 153 million people have uncorrected refractive errors (near-sightedness, far-sightedness and astigmatism). Refractive errors can be easily corrected with eyeglasses, yet millions in undeveloped nations lack access to basic eye care services.*" The Lions Club has a regional depot for recycled eyeglasses here in the City of Falls Church that fills requests for donations that are sent all over the world.

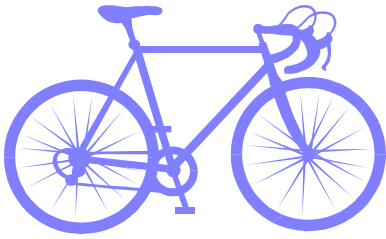
To help dispense the eyeglasses, the Victorian Society at Falls Church took up a collection among its 120 members this summer and raised \$500 to buy a focometer. This simple device that does not require electricity was developed specifically for use in underdeveloped countries. It measures the strength of corrective lenses needed.



According to Terry Hooper Knapp, a Victorian Society board member who led the fund drive, "*I know that our gesture will make a huge difference in people's lives. Not only because of the improved vision it will bring, but also because of the message of hope it sends.*"

and the Djolu Technical College in Djolu, the territorial capital (see article, page 1).

400 Bicycles Donated



In Kokolopori, as elsewhere in rural parts of the DRC, the primary means of travel are mainly by river or by foot, and sometimes by bicycle or motorcycle.

Currently there are only two motorized vehicles in Kokolopori, and only one rutted dirt road that skirts the forest preserve and connects the 35 village. It takes several days to walk from one end of the chain of villages to the other. Bicycles are urgently needed to transport goods to and from local markets, as well as to reduce isolation in rural areas, and improve access to agricultural fields, schools and health care.

The KFCSCP's parent organization, the Bonobo Conservation Initiative (BCI), has been very fortunate to receive a donation of 400 mountain bikes from the Spokes Community Bicycle Project in Boulder, Colorado. Spokes Community Bicycle Project is a non-profit organization that recovers landfill-bound bicycles, repairs them to working condition and prepares them for shipment to developing countries.

When they arrive at their journey's end next spring, the bikes will be distributed among the following communities that provide local management for the community-based reserves in the Bonobo Peace Forest:

Kokolopori
Lac Tumba
Lilungu
Lingomo
Lomela
Lonua
Mompano
Munieka
Samba

The bicycles will be distributed among the villages according to the population and land area, as well as other criteria like the degree of the community's active involvement in conservation work. We anticipate that at least 50% of the bicycles will go to residents of Kokolopori, which is the model for cooperation and development for the rest of the Bonobo Peace Forest communities. The donation includes bicycle maintenance tools and parts, as well as bicycle repair workshops to be taught at two central locations by Boulder bike mechanics. We also anticipate that entrepreneurs will be able to set up bicycle maintenance and repair shops as a result, which can become new micro-enterprises in these communities.

Kokolopori at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival

The spotlight that shone on Falls Church at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival on July 1 also illuminated our sister city, Kokolopori. The "Roots of Virginia Culture" was one of the exhibits of this annual festival on the National Mall, and Falls Church was one of several Virginia towns singled out from the more than 180 communities participating in the celebration and commemoration of the settlement of Jamestown and its continuing legacy as part of America's 400th Anniversary.

Barbara Cram, Chair of the City's 2007 Committee, put together an impressive photo album for our booth, which also featured excavated artifacts, a timeline and other memorabilia. The album included eight pages of vivid images from Kokolopori, and items depicting our activities, including news clippings, the invitation to our gala benefit reception, and the notecards featuring our student art contest winners' artwork. People from throughout the Washington metropolitan area learned about our program that day, and about the unique rainforest community we call our Sister City.

Of Interest

“The Poisonwood Bible” by Barbara Kingsolver – A Book Review

By Maryll Kleibrink

Between the years of 1959 and 1998, we follow the evolution of Congolese society in an isolated, rural village not unlike Kokolopori, through the country's liberation from Belgian rule, the election and subsequent assassination of its first president, and the rise of its infamous dictator, Mobutu. Narrated in turn by each of the four young daughters of a Baptist missionary, the family's story unfolds. The author, Barbara Kingsolver, masterfully evokes the character of each through the shift in voice and perspective from one chapter to the next.

The speech of the vain and shallow eldest daughter, for instance, is peppered with hilarious malapropisms like the use of “philanderist” instead of “philanthropist.” The youngest daughter's speech exhibits an engaging mixture of perceptiveness and misunderstanding that rings entirely true to a five-year-old. The other two daughters are 12-year-old twins when the story starts. Because one was born crippled, the girls' relationship is tinged by a subconscious sense of recrimination and debt. Both have brilliant and inquisitive minds, reflecting upon and analyzing their family's position in their Congolese mission. As conditions change, the twins mature and revise their opinions about their parents, their values, their religion and their world.

One of the most riveting characters in the story is that of the father, Nathan Price, who is an old-style fundamentalist missionary fixated on converting heathens and baptizing their children in the crocodile-infested river. His character, sanctimonious, close-minded, and self-righteous, has set his family on a collision course with disaster which he is unwilling to avert. The reverend's conviction that “god despises a coward who runs while others stand and suffer” springs from a shameful secret he guards from his experience in the jungles of the Philippines during WW II. He refuses to evacuate his family when the political mood turns ugly and white foreigners become

targets of the hatred born of the long decades of oppression under colonial rule.

Although the book makes for entertaining reading, it also conveys a serious message about the devastating consequences of the meddling in Congolese affairs of state by the United States and other foreign powers. Readers in Falls Church will value it, above all, for its engaging depiction of the life of villagers in an isolated Congolese community, and the peculiar ways in which African and American cultures can collide.

The \$400 Laptop

By Maryll Kleibrink

In November, during a two-week window only (beginning Nov. 12), individual consumers can purchase the fabled \$100 laptop that was developed to bring computer technology to poor children in developing countries. There are only two catches. The first is that you have to buy two of them – one for yourself, and one that will be sent to a poor child in Peru. The other catch is that, for now, they cost \$200 each, instead of \$100.

Nevertheless, this is still a fabulous opportunity for Kokolopori to tap into this marvel in IT engineering! Here's why.

The XO laptop, as it's called, is compact, weighing only 3.2 pounds. With a 1 GB NAND flash drive and 256 MB of memory, it's rainproof, dustproof and drop-proof. One battery charge will power six hours of heavy activity, or 24 hours of reading. It boasts a built-in video camera, microphone, memory-card slot, graphics tablet, and game-pad controllers.

The One Laptop Per Child Foundation (www.laptop.org) is a nonprofit organization created by faculty members of the MIT Media Lab.

Originally touted as the \$100 laptop, the project's leaders still believe the price will eventually drop that low, or nearly so, once more countries join in and economies of scale bring down the manufacturing cost. Except for this unique two-week public sale, the laptops are being sold only in bulk to government agencies that have pledged to distribute them to children in their countries. Seven

nations have committed to buy the XO for their schoolchildren so far: Argentina, Brazil, Libya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Thailand and Uruguay. It is estimated that there are two billion educationally underserved children in the poorer countries of the world.



In Kokolopori, as in many places where the XO will be used, there is no electricity. A small yo-yo-like pull-cord charger provides ten minutes of power for each one minute of pulling. A \$12 solar panel is also available that, although only one foot square, provides enough power to recharge or power

the machine. The laptop battery chemistry, called lithium ferro-phosphate, runs at one-tenth the temperature of a standard laptop battery, costs \$10 to replace, and is good for 2,000 charges — compared to 500 on a regular laptop battery. The laptop consumes an average of 2 watts, compared with 60 or more on a typical business laptop.

According to a recent article in the New York Times (NY Times, Oct. 4, 2007 “Laptop with a Mission Widens Its Audience”

(<http://tinyurl.com/2ds9ys>):

“The built-in programs are equally clever. There’s a word processor, Web browser, calculator, PDF textbook reader, some games (clones of Tetris and Connect 4), three music programs, a painting application, a chat program and so on. The camera module permits teachers, for the first time, to send messages home to illiterate parents.

“There are also three programming environments of different degrees of sophistication. Incredibly, one keystroke reveals the underlying code of almost any XO program or any Web page. Students can not only study how their favorite programs have been written, but even experiment by making changes. (If they make a mess of things, they can restore the original.)”

The public sale program is called “Give 1, Get 1,” and it works like this. You pay \$400 (www.laptopgiving.org). One XO laptop (and a tax deduction) comes to you by Christmas, and a

second is sent to a student in a poor country. The Kokolopori-Falls Church Sister City Partnership is hoping that enough donors will come forward that we can send at least half a dozen XO’s to Kokolopori for a small-scale pilot project. By demonstrating that the XO is well-suited to Kokolopori, we could potentially win a grant for more XO’s in Kokolopori.

The OLPC website claims, *“The Foundation is in the process of raising funds that will enable it, in the future, to subsidize the cost of laptops to groups of children who will not be provided laptops by governments because of the special nature of their circumstances. Examples of these exceptional cases include programs for refugee children, for children in isolated parts of a country who are not included in a government program, and for children living in exceptionally poor countries.”*

Please help us open up this enriching educational opportunity for the children of Kokolopori! With an advantage like this, they will be much better equipped to compete in today’s global economy. Let us know you are ordering an XO laptop for Kokolopori by sending an email to info@kokolopori-partnership.org.

Holiday Wish List

Local businesses and clubs may want to emulate the example set by the Lions Club International and the Victorian Society at Falls Church. Does your office or organization take up a charitable collection for the holidays? Consider choosing an item from the wish list of the Kokolopori-Falls Church Sister City Partnership to benefit our sister city.

Don't forget to make your fundraiser fun! There are many more ways to raise money than passing a hat. How about asking employees to donate \$5 for the privilege of wearing jeans on Fridays in December? Or hold a holiday happy hour at a local restaurant that agrees to donate a percentage of the take from the bar to your cause. An office pool could be held to win a prize or privilege, with the proceeds going to charity.

Here are some important ways you can help:

Help Outfit Kokolopori's First Health Clinic:

- Sponsor the salary of a doctor (\$200 per month) for the clinic. See article on page 3 of this newsletter;
- Help train health educators in each of the villages to spread messages about preventive health care (sanitation and hygiene, prenatal care and midwifery, nutrition, and disease prevention);
- Supplement and maintain stocks of essential medications and supplies for the clinic. Donations of any amount are welcome.

Education:

Until now, the only teaching materials available to the 2,500 students in Kokolopori's eight primary and two secondary schools were chalkboards and chalk. Thanks to \$10,000 raised in 2006 in Falls Church, this fall each school will receive some basic school supplies for its students.

Funds are still needed for the following:

- New chalkboards to replace ones from which the blacking has worn off (\$150 for six chalkboards, enough to equip an entire school);
- Typewriters and bond paper costing \$400 per school, with which to prepare official transcripts and diplomas for students (until now everything has been hand-written);
- Photographic equipment and supplies costing \$800 for producing passport-size photos needed to complete an official diploma. At present, the only way to obtain these is to walk for many days to the nearest city, Kisangani.
- Support a student at Djolu Technical College. A three-year scholarship for one student costs a mere \$240!

Kokolopori Micro-credit Program:

In April 2007, we raised \$13,000 to establish the Kokolopori Micro-credit Loan Fund. Additional funds are needed to:

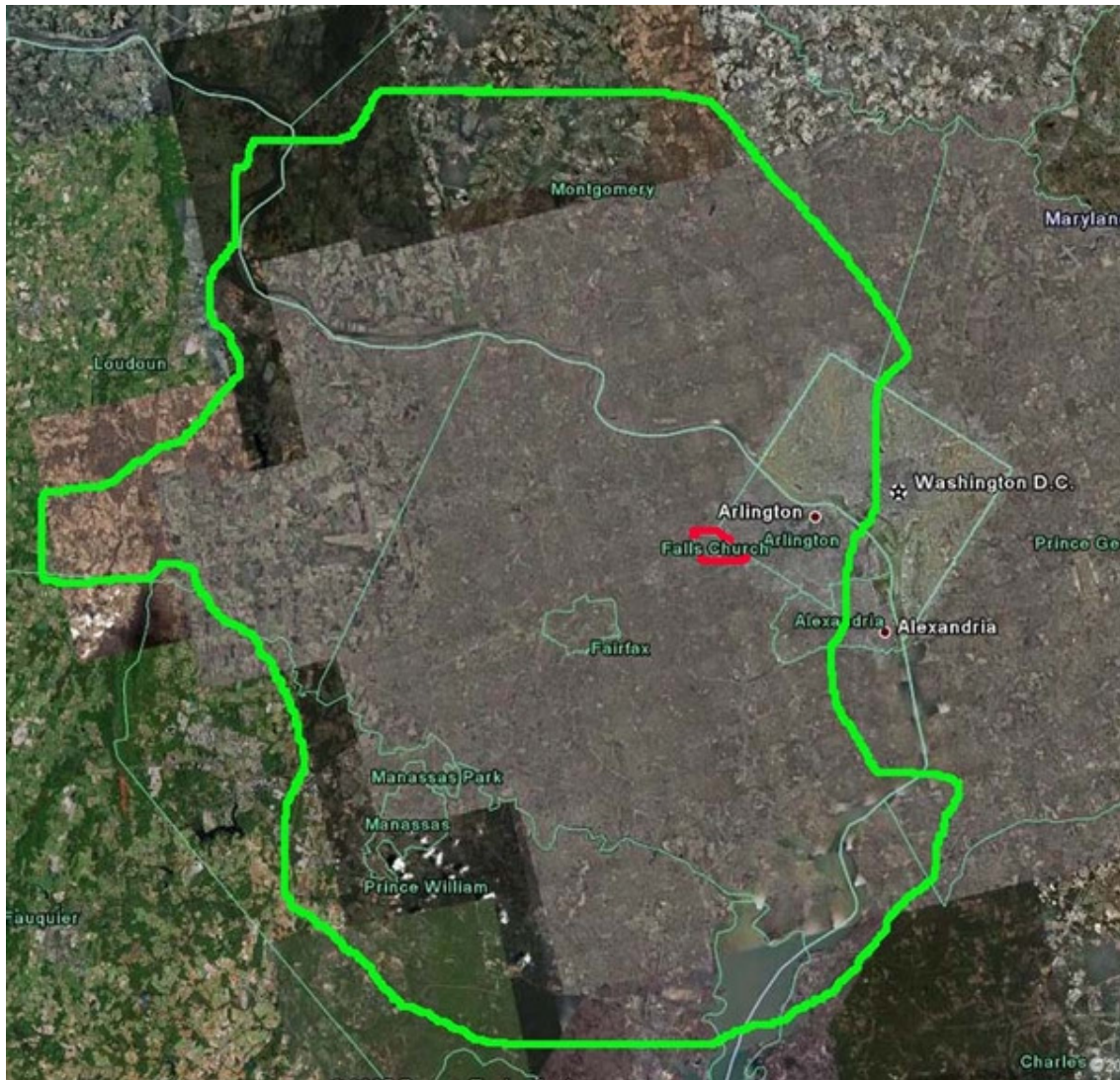
- Build the loan fund principal (donations of any amount are welcome), so that more businesses can be launched and more families can work their way out of poverty;

- Provide training and resources to loan fund managers, who will meet regularly with women's cooperatives to advise them on subjects like bookkeeping, marketing, and production issues;
- Make one-time equipment purchases such as non-electric sewing machines (\$100 each), or button-making machines.
- Purchase a motorcycle (\$750) to enable the loan officers to visit all four "groupements" efficiently and regularly.

Would you like to come to meetings held once a month or so, and get more involved with our sister city partnership? Send an email to info@kokolopori-partnership.org and we will add you to our email list to receive notices of upcoming meetings!

Kokolopori-Falls Church Sister City Partnership
P.O. Box 6043, Falls Church, VA 22040
info@kokolopori-partnership.org

Ingrid Schulze, Director
Maura Constance, Health Clinic Committee Chair
Terry Hooper Knapp, Finance Committee Chair
Maryll Kleibrink, Fundraising Committee Chair



(photo copyright BCI)

The Kokolopori Bonobo Reserve overlaid on a map of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area for comparison. Approximately 8,000 inhabitants live clustered along the only road, which borders the reserve.